

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17-23 are added. Support for new claims 17-23 may be found in the original specification at, for example, FIG. 2, original claims 1, 3 and 14, and page 21, lines 21-24. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 4-7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Patent Office alleges that no mention is made of computer-readable, tangible media embodying the device, nor is any hardware recited in claims 1, 4-7 or 14. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 does recite specific hardware within a linking information making device, e.g., a service list acquisition unit, an interface information acquisition unit, a linking information making unit and a management unit. Claim 1 still further recites that information is to be displayed on a screen, which itself also provides tangible media.

Thus, as claim 1 recites tangible media and hardware, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 with respect to claim 1 and dependent claims therefrom (claims 4-7 and 14) are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0198904 ("Robles").

The Patent Office rejected claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robles in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0039647 (Roche).

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the above rejections.

Claim 1 and New Claims 17-19

Robles fails to teach or suggest a linking information making device including a linking information making unit that makes linking information to be used for linking the predetermined processings based on the interface information which has been acquired by the interface information acquisition unit, and transmits the linking information, the linking information including information to be displayed on a screen of one or more service processing devices and to be selected by a user operating the screen when the user instructs to start linking the predetermined processings, as recited in claim 1.

Robles discloses that a user submits a document production request 44 and thereafter has the ability to select services and/or service options from the services and service options available to produce a desired document (see Robles, paragraphs [0024] and [0025]). Further, once a user selects the services and/or service options available for producing a desired document, identified devices are provided and chosen by the user that are capable of providing the selected services. Thereafter, the plan generator 68 is responsible for merging the formatted production request 44 with selected services 46 (see Robles, paragraphs [0031] and [0032]). That is, once a user selects the desired services and devices, the plan generator 68 (alleged linking information device) creates the workflow needed to produce the desired document.

However, claim 1 allows a user to select linking information that establishes a workflow and also allows a user to start linking the predetermined processings for document data once the workflow is selected via the linking information. Thus, claim 1 allows a user to accept and/or create a desired workflow. In contrast, Robles does not allow a user to have any input in the creation of a workflow that is created by plan generator 68.

In addition, Robles also fails to teach or suggest a management unit to transmit stored linking information to service processing devices for displaying on the screen based on a request from the service processing devices, as required in claim 1.

Further, as new claims 17-19 depend from claim 1, claims 17-19 are also neither taught nor suggested by Robles for at least all of the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 and New Claims 20-23

Claim 2 is directed to a linking information making method and claims 3 and 20 are directed to a computer-readable recording medium. However, claims 2, 3 and 20 allow a user to select the linking information that establishes a workflow, claims 2 and 3 allow the user to start linking the predetermined processings of a desired document once the workflow is selected via the linking information, and claim 20 makes linking information that links the predetermined processings as a workflow based on a user operation. Thus, for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, each of claims 2, 3 and 20, and dependent claims therefrom, are also neither taught nor suggested by Robles.

Roche

The Patent Office relies on Roche as allegedly disclosing an XML based work order. However, even if Roche is relied on as teaching an XML based work order, Roche fails to remedy the deficiencies of Robles in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of claims 1, 2 and 3, for all of the same reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 2, 3 and 20, and dependent claims therefrom, are patentable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 14-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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